

Celebrating The Life of
Briggie Michelle Coleman

Sunrise: April 1, 1959 ~ Sunset: January 12, 2008



Saturday, January 26, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Zoe Christian Fellowship

5315 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90016

OFFICIATING MINISTER

Minister Darryl Gillabrathar



LIFE AND LEGACY OF
Briggie Michelle Coleman

When GOD created Briggie Coleman, He created a rare jewel indeed.

A Time to Be Born:

Briggie Michelle Coleman was born on April 1, 1959 in Los Angeles, California to Betty Newton and Berry Coleman. She spent her primary years at 92nd Street Elementary School. She attended South Gate Junior High School, South Gate High School and finished her last year at Crenshaw High School from where she graduated in 1977.

A Time to Serve GOD:

Briggie accepted Christ at an early age. She attended Academy Cathedral Church for many years where she sang in the church choir. She later joined Everlasting Faith Church.

A Time to Serve the Community:

Briggie was a professional driver for Hudson General Bus Company, RTD and Greyhound. Her career as a professional driver extended over a period of 20 years.

A Time of Reflection:

Briggie's favorite pastime was shopping, shopping and more shopping. She also enjoyed cooking, particularly exotic cultural foods and she loved collecting beautiful treasures of all kinds. If we could accurately describe the essence of Briggie, we would have to say that she was intelligent, classy, vibrant, soft-spoken, graceful, free-spirited, talented, beautiful, funny and a dreamer who was always smiling. But more than anything else, she was a true DIVA. She believed that you could accomplish anything you set your mind to. Did you know that Briggie was an aspiring writer? She has written numerous poems and some children's stories, which she was preparing to have published.

Briggie's favorite quote:

"Even if you don't have money, you should always look like it."

A Time to Love:

Briggie truly loved her grandchildren.

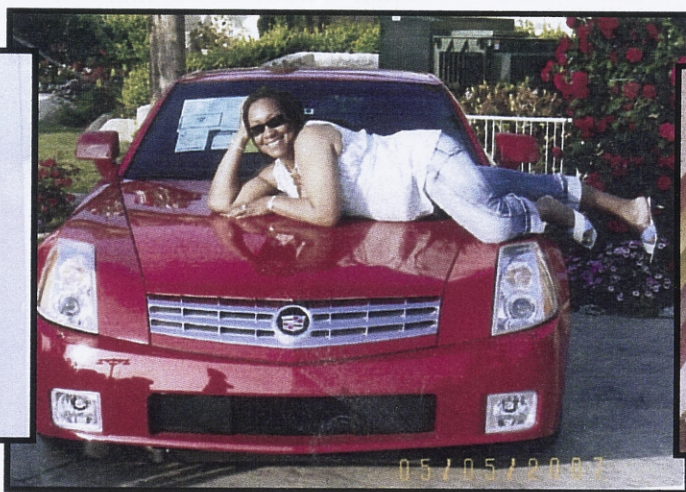
A Time to Mourn:

Preceding her in death are her brother Donnie and her sister Randy.

A Time to Die:

She leaves to cherish her memories her parents Betty Hubbard and Berry Coleman; fiancée Roan Forrester Jr.; four wonderful children, Shean, Ayanna, Charmetra, and Brent; sisters: LaNeice "Fruity", LaSonjia, Maranda, Renee and Lakel; brothers: Alex, Lamont, Rickie, Xavier, and Val; Aunty Deloise; her grandchildren Tyanna, DeShawn, RonShean, Nigel, Samiyah, Ozze, and Alivia; her nieces, Tamara and Brittani; her great nephew, baby Hoyt, due April 19, 2008; godchildren, Danny and Niesha; daughter-in-law Rachelle and a host of relatives and friends.

To Know Briggie was to Love Her



ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL

Prayer Minister Darryl Gillabrathar

Selection "Believe In Me" Clarence Deveraux

Scripture Reading R. Brandon Smith

Old Testament: Psalm 91:1-2

New Testament: Hebrews 11:1

Selection "I Won't Complain" Donna Washington

Acknowledgements Essie Riley

Poem Robin Egbuniwe

Poem Roan Forrester Jr.

Selection "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" Jennifer Beasley

Reading Tia Toston

Poem R. Brandon Smith

Selection "Going Up Yonder" Tia Toston

Remarks Please limit to two minutes Family and Friends

Reading of Obituary Carolyn Harris

Selection Donna Washington

Eulogy Minister Darryl Gillabrathar

Parting View Dedication to Briggie from Roan "Ribbon In The Sky"

RECESSIONAL





Momma

This is my dedication to you.
You were not just my mother, but also my best friend.
You are forever in my heart. I miss you and I love you.

Always,
Charmetra



Mother,

God took the sunshine from the skies and made lovelight

In your eyes, from honeyed flowers
He took the dew and made your tears

Unselfish, true
Upon a rock your faith He built with angel prayers

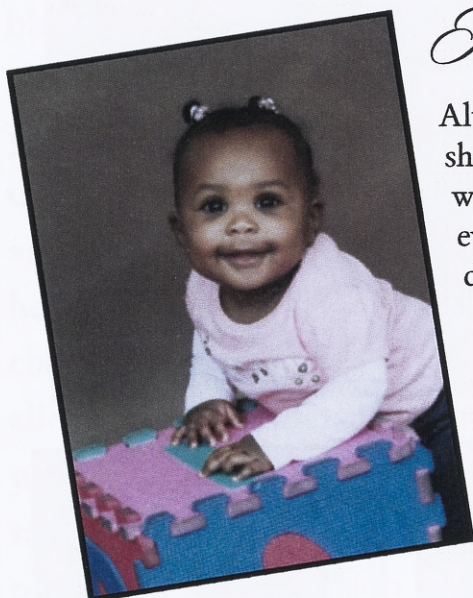
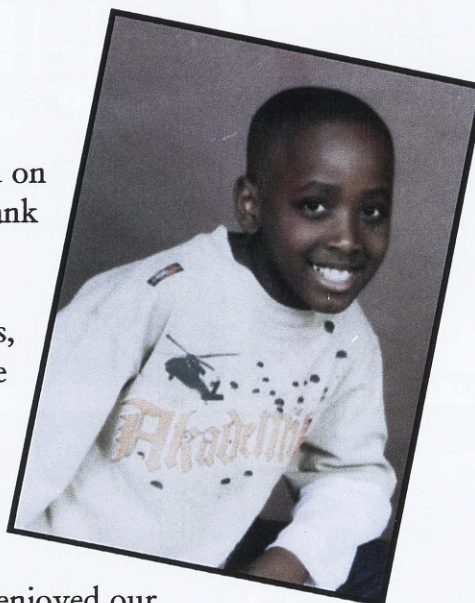
Your breath filled and with His love
Made yours divine

And best of all
He made you mine

Dear Nana

I hope you are having fun in heaven. I had fun with you on earth and will always love you. I'll never forget you. I thank you for always being loving and supportive.

Love you always,
Ronnie



Nana,

Although we just met, I enjoyed our short time. You made me laugh. You loved me with all your heart. You held me and sometimes I don't think you ever wanted to let go. I love you. I love you. Hugs and kisses and droll.

Lovingly,
Alivia

Dear Nana

We love you so much. We will miss you.

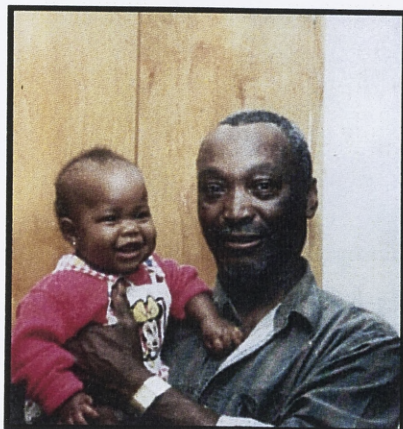
DeShawn, Nigel & Ozze

Nana

I need you every day to keep me strong mentally, needing you more than you need me and still my love for you grows constantly. Needing you like the air I breathe and the food I eat, needing you more than you need me. Needing to see your words as you see mine, thinking of you so much it hurts my mind. The need to know you're okay, not knowing brings a sadness to my day. Needing you more than you need me, loving you came so easily. I need to have you in my life, without you things just won't be right. Needing you more than you need me, I need your love; I need your strength, Nana. Who knew needing you could hurt like this.



Love,
Tyanna

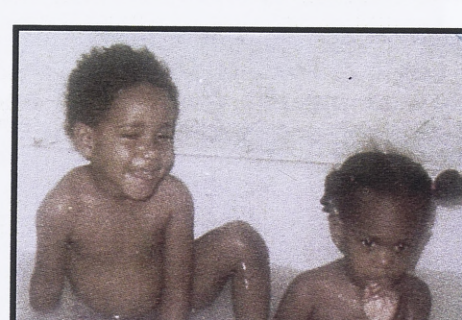
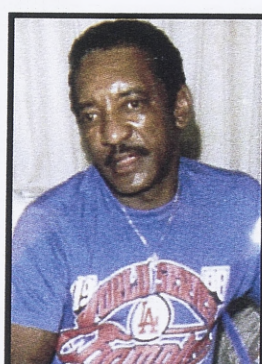
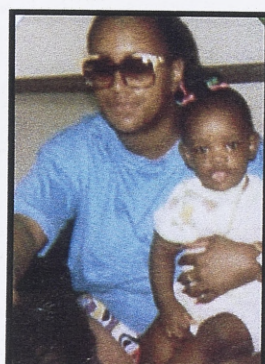


My Big Sister,

As I sit writing this letter to you my heart is heavy. To believe that my big sister is gone is the unthinkable. I keep expecting you to walk in, late as usual, smiling, saying "I'm here Neice" in your soft-spoken way, and I would be so mad at you because you were extremely late and your response would be "Oh, get over it Neice." So many memories flood my mind like when we were kids and I dropped the bunk bed on you and took off running, or the time I hit you in the eye with the ball of the bed and blackened your eye, or when I was doing something to you I had no business and you would dig your nails in me down to the white meat. I remember watching you put on your makeup ever so perfectly and style your hair neatly. But most of all, I think of the times as adults when we would have heart to heart talks, sharing our hopes, dreams and aspirations or you just being there as a listening ear. I love you with my whole heart and I can't believe you are gone. I never expected you to leave me so soon. I cherish each and every moment God allowed me the pleasure of spending with you, Big Sister. It's so hard to say goodbye to my only sister, my protector, my friend, so I won't say goodbye, I'll say until we meet again. God truly gave me a treasure when He gave me you. No one can ever replace you, B. I miss you terribly. I look forward to you greeting me at the pearly gates of heaven with your beautiful smile and soft-spoken voice, saying, "I'm glad you finally made it Neice, shopping is free up here!"

Always,
Your little sister, Neice





Dear Briggie,

How do I say goodbye to a "special friend" who has been in my life since we were 8 years old? Who's going to take one hour to prepare me a cup of coffee with the perfect amount of sugar and cream? Who's going to listen to me when I just want to talk about nothing in particular? Who's going to spend 3 hours with me in TJ Maxx, Ross or Marshalls? Who will I share my secrets, my dreams, my wants and my desires? Who's going to argue with me and tell me when I am wrong? Most importantly, who is going to call me a "heffa" to my face?

I miss you terribly and my life feels so incredibly empty. I would give anything to answer my telephone and hear you say "Ms. Cohen" one last time. Even when I was mad at you, I always knew all I had to do was call and you would listen. You were a dreamer and that is what I loved most about you. Like you, I kept "hope alive" that one day all your dreams would come true. I could write a book and title it "The Life, Dreams and Adventures of Briggie Michelle Coleman" but where would I start? The Elementary School Years? High School? The Poems? Children? RTD? Men? Or how about just your life in general? Or wait, how about that voice? You know the one that never went above a sexy whisper? And of course, we cannot forget your cooking. The home cooked dinners at 10:30 p.m., the prime rib, the BBQ's & the late night talks at the dinner table.

Or how about "The Celebrity" known as Briggie Michelle Coleman always arriving late and I'm talking sometimes more than 3 hours late but always with an entourage at your side. Or how about the times when your "sidekicks" arrived at family functions, brunches or church functions hours before you? You simply did not care what anyone thought! You had to have the perfect telephone conversation for hours prior to leaving your home, in conjunction with the perfect 30 minute shower, select the perfect outfit, the perfect diamond jewelry, the perfect hair and the perfect "late" entrance. While all the perfect "on time" people sat waiting, you would enter as if you were "perfectly" on time. Let's just say if I had a dollar for each time over the years I heard the question "where's Briggie or is Briggie on her way?" I would be rich!

When I was purchasing my home and needed to get the extra money to the bank and I could not leave my office, it was you who drove to Orange County to make the deposit for me – and to my surprise, you made it to the bank in record time! It was always you and Roan who cooked the food for Courtney's surprise 18th birthday party, when I was running out of time trying to get Courtney out of the house. Yes, you were incredibly slow, moved at your own pace and a dreamer, but you were always special to me.

Thank you for being my BFF and making my life fun and exciting! I miss you and love you, more than words can ever express! I will cherish the memories and special dreams we shared forever! Dream on, my special friend! Until we are together again, I will always be your BEST FRIEND FOREVER.....

Darlene A. Cohen

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To Godmother,

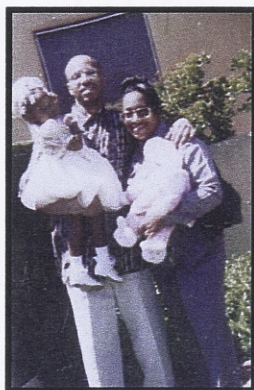
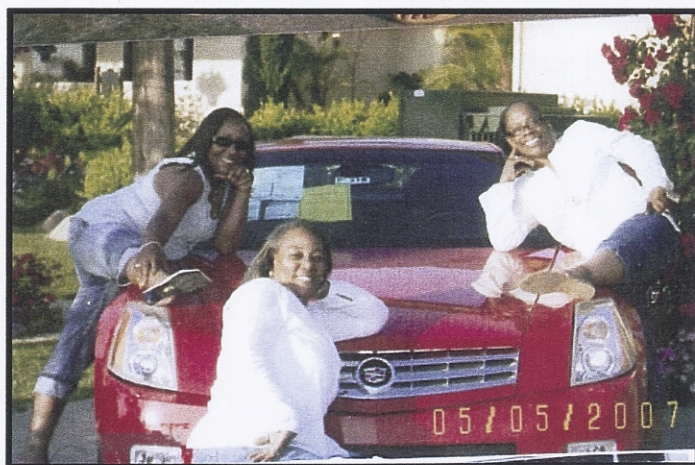
*We had good times together
and when I needed you, you
were there and I am going to
miss you very very much. I
wish you were here but I
know you are in a better
place now and I will always
love you momma!*

*Love Your Godson,
Danny*

To Godmother,

We had good times together
and when I needed you, you
were there and I am going to
miss you very much. I
wish you were here but I
know you are in a better
place now and I will always
love you momma!

Love Your Godson,
Denny



Momma

It's time for me to take a stand.

It's going to be hard letting go of your hand.

Momma I heard you, I know you only wanted me to be a man.

I'm trying to be strong, but I don't know if I can.

There are so many things that I didn't get to show you.

There are so many things that I didn't get to say.

I wish Higher Powers would hear my compromise and grant us just one more day.

How do I fix this?

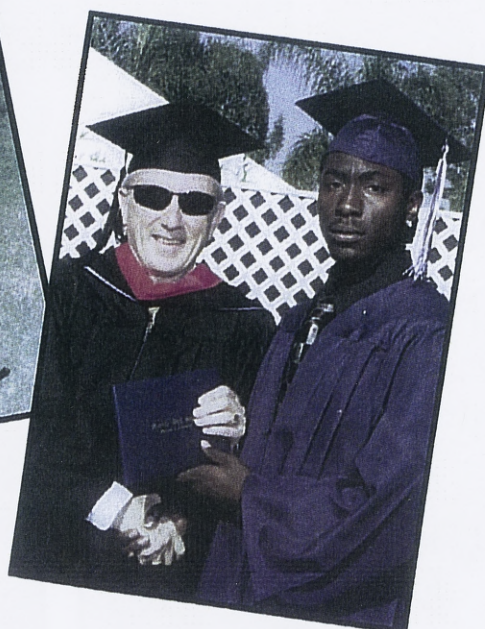
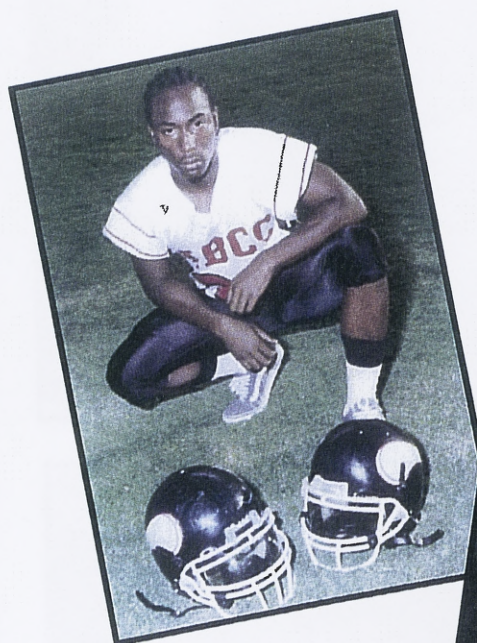
How can I make this right?

How do I mend the pieces of my heart?

Every morning and every night, missing you makes my chest ball up real tight.

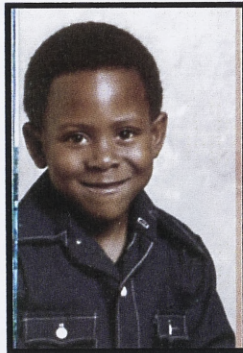
But I know you'll be watching over me, sending me little signs.

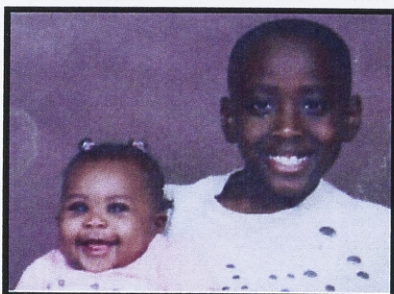
But what I need is to throw my arms around you just one more time.



Love your baby boy,

Brent





Auntie B

My Auntie, my loved-one, my diva. I cherish every moment that we have shared together. I'll miss our get'em girl talks. You'll always have a place in my heart. I thought you would not depart my life so soon. I would do anything to get you back in my life. But the reality of it is that I will have to wait to see you again. I'll make sure my son knows all about you. I thought to myself, "Now who's going to be late to my baby shower?"

You made me realize that life may take unexpected turns so I should love and cherish my loved ones while they are here. My heart is crushed and I don't think it can be repaired. I cannot grasp the fact that you are gone, but you are at your new home now. I'll miss your voice that was soft as a whisper.

Your love, your style, your diva-ness, I will always remember. You helped the diva come out in me. I'll still have my strut with my head up high like you would want me to. I know you're in heaven smiling down and in the spirit you'll always be around. I love and miss you abundantly. You are truly irreplaceable.

Your Niece,
Tamara



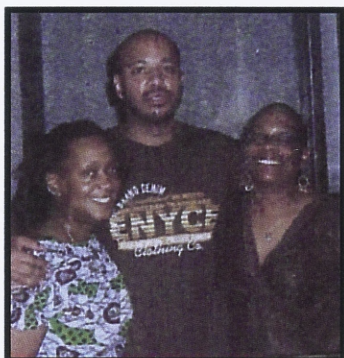
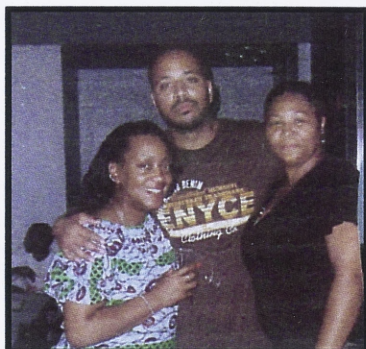
I Thought I Saw Her Face Today

I thought I saw her face today, in the sparkle of the morning sun.
And then I heard the angel say, "Her work on earth is done."
I thought I heard her voice today, then laugh her hearty laugh.
And then I heard the angel say, "There's peace little one at last."
I thought I felt her touch today, in the breeze that rustled by.
And then I heard the angel say, "The spirit never dies."
I thought I smelled her perfume today, in the aroma of everyday life
And then I heard the angel say, "Inhale her memory and exhale your strife."
See, my eyes were bloodshot red, still burning from the agonizing pain
The skies of all my misfortunes, clouded all my sunshine to rain
I was ready to give up because I knew things wouldn't be the same
My heart led me to confusion and I even tried to give God the blame
My whole world ended without any warning and everything came crashing down
The smile that I was once infamous for had now become a permanent frown
Then I heard a voice that said, "Child, get up off that floor."
And this time the voice stood out because it was different from the one before
"Aunty, is that you?" I asked trying to clear my vision
The figure I saw was healthy and happy and stood with a distinct precision
She said, "Don't cry for me, so wipe those tears away.
Those tears of sadness that you have are distracting from this joyous day
And listen to that angel because he watches over you
He guided me to my calling and he's watching the family too
So I want you to be that bond that keeps our family tight
And when the family gets discouraged, reassure them that I'm alright."
I thought that she had left me, for the stars so far above.
And then I heard the angel say, "She left you with her love."
I thought that I would miss her
and never find my way.
And then I heard the angel say,
"She's with you every day."
So as a part of my promise
there is something I must do
I'm here to tell you all
That she is with you too.

I Love You Auntie B

Love, Brittani





Dear Nana,

We didn't finish my room.
Why did the Lord have to take you?
I wish I had powers, Nana.
I wish I could wake you.

Love Samiyah



Dear Momma,

I love you always.

Shean



When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me
I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today
While thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say
I know how much you love me, as much as I love you
And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too
But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand
That an Angel came and called my name, she took me by the hand
She said my place was ready, in heaven far above
And that I'd have to leave behind, all those I dearly love
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye
For all my life, I'd always thought, I didn't want to die
I had so much to live for, so much yet to do
It seemed almost impossible, that I was leaving you
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad
I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had
If I could relive yesterday, just even for awhile
I'd say goodbye and kiss you then I could see you smile
But then I fully realized, that this could never be
For emptiness and memories, would take the place of me.
And when I thought of worldly things,
That I might miss come tomorrow,
I thought of you, and when I did,
my heart was filled with sorrow
But when I walked through heaven's gates,
I felt so much at home When God looked down
and smiled at me, from His great golden throne
He said, "This is eternity, and all I've promised you
Today your life on earth is past, but here it starts anew
I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last
And since each day's the same day
there's no longing for the past
But you have been so faithful, so trusting and so true
Though there were times you did some things
you know you shouldn't do
But you have been forgiven and now at last you're free
So won't you take my hand
and share my life with me?"
So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart
So no more tears I want to see, just a fleeting grin
When you remember how we were, the trouble we got in
So go on with your life, don't let it pass you by
So when tomorrow starts without me just remember I am near
To guide you and love you like I always did, and take away your fear.



Active Pallbearers

R. Brandon Smith

Troy Gillabrathar

Renard Smith

Alex Coll

Jason Spencer

Marcus Duruisseau

Robert Jones

Danny Fonfara



Honorary Pallbearers

Shean Coll

Brent Lacey

Roan Forrester Jr.

Xavier Coleman

Ricky Coleman

Lamont Coleman

Robert Corley

Steve Adams

Ricki Mays



Acknowledgements

There are no words that can express our appreciation for your kindness and support. We sincerely feel that your presence, prayers and many acts of kindness on our behalf have been what we needed to sustain us through this time of sorrow. We thank each and every one of you.

The Family of Briggie Michelle Coleman



Interment

Rose Hills Memorial Park
3888 Workman Mill Road,
Whittier, California 90601



Repast

Greater New Morning Star
210 West Florence Avenue
Los Angeles, California



FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO
Simpson's Family Mortuary FD#1559

3443 West Manchester Boulevard
Inglewood, California 90305

Office : (323) 752-5524

divine creations 323.779.8234

